

FREEDOM FOR LÉSTER GONZÁLEZ
PENTÓN

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Léster González Pentón, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. González Pentón is a member of the Reason, Truth and Freedom Human Rights Movement and a delegate of the Cuban Confederation of Democratic Workers. He is a peaceful pro-democracy activist who has worked intensely to liberate Cuba from the control of the demented terrorist in power in Havana. Mr. González Pentón believes in human rights, worker rights, and freedom for the people of Cuba. As these tenants are the antithesis of the tyrant's policies of lies, fear, intimidation, and repression, he has been constantly harassed by the terrorist regime in Havana.

According to Amnesty International, on August 5, 2002, the tyrant's thugs prevented him from leaving his house, in order to stop him from participating in events organized by fellow pro-democracy activists. Previously, on July 9, 2001, Amnesty International reports that Mr. González Pentón was questioned and threatened with imprisonment by police if he did not work: despite the fact that he was fired him from his job as a baker because the totalitarian regime was threatened by his peaceful activities with the Cuban Confederation of Democratic workers.

On March 18, 2003, as part of the dictatorship's deplorable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. González Pentón was arrested. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 20 years in the grotesque totalitarian gulag. According to the U.S. Department of State, members of the tyrant's totalitarian apparatchik threatened to suspend family visits for Mr. González Pentón because he, and eight other political prisoners, read aloud to each other from the Bible.

Mr. Speaker, it is an affront to the inalienable rights of man that Mr. González Pentón is languishing in the inhuman squalor of a totalitarian gulag simply because he believes that liberty is the sacred right of all people. It is unconscionable that he and others have been further punished because they read the Bible. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Lester González Pentón and every political prisoner suffering under the nightmare that is the Castro regime.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BATTLE OF THE
BULGE

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge on the occasion of its 60th Anniversary this month. On November 16, 2004, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.J. Res. 110, a resolution recognizing the 60th

anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II, and I was proud to vote in favor of H.J. Res. 110.

Mr. Speaker, the Battle of the Bulge was a significant turning point of the Allied victory over the Axis powers in Northern Europe. At the time of the battle, from December 16, 1944, to January 25, 1945, the outcome of World War II was in question. But neither the harsh winter nor enemy fire could overcome the Allied determination to win the greatest battle of that war.

Mr. Speaker, out of the 16 million veterans of World War II, roughly 4 million are with us and about 1,200 die each day. With each death, we lose a first hand account of the war and the opportunity to thank them for their service. That is why it is so important that the House, on this anniversary, acknowledge the sacrifice and service of the men of the Battle of the Bulge.

Mr. Speaker, after 60 years, the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge are traveling to Belgium and Luxembourg this month to participate in 60th Anniversary events. They and their families will join with the people of Belgium and Luxembourg in somber remembrance of the battle. Both the King of the Belgians, Albert II, and the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, Henri, will participate in official events.

Mr. Speaker, my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts is home to the Central Massachusetts Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. The Worcester chapter has 155 members. Its objective is to honor the men who fought at the battle, to preserve historical data and sites, to foster international peace and goodwill, and to promote friendship and comradeship. The Worcester chapter has honored the 10 sons of Worcester who died during the battle by placing square markers throughout the city. Many members of the chapter are going to Europe this month for the remembrance services.

Mr. Speaker, the Battle of the Bulge and World War II tore apart the continent of Europe. It pitted great civilizations against each other in an epic battle for control of Europe. But the Allied victory and the great sacrifice of the men of World War II have contributed to today's peace in Europe. Indeed, the United States, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and other nations involved in the Battle of the Bulge are allies today as members of NATO. Our countries have worked closely on solidarity, freedom, security, and the trans-Atlantic alliance. Today's European and American cooperation is due in large part to the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, I thank these veterans for their service, their courage, their sacrifice and their continuing efforts to foster international freedom and democracy.

RECOGNIZING GEOFFREY KUDLACZ
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Geoffrey Kudlacz, a very special

young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Geoffrey has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Geoffrey has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Geoffrey Kudlacz for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO THE HARDENBERGH
INSURANCE AGENCY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and honor the Hardenbergh Insurance Agency for 50 years of venerable and dedicated service to the families and business of our region. Since its founding in 1954 by the late Richard C. Hardenbergh, the Hardenbergh Insurance Agency has expanded its services to provide commercial business insurance, health benefits, personal insurance, bonding, and risk management services. The agency currently covers a wide range of prestigious clients including public entities, private businesses, not-for-profit groups, real estate owners, school districts, and others.

In recognition of the agency's admirable growth, Richard J. Hardenbergh, son of the late Richard C. Hardenbergh, has changed the agency's name to the Hardenbergh Insurance Group on its fiftieth anniversary. Under the direction of Richard J. Hardenbergh, this agency operates as a family and has established a considerable reputation of good will and professionalism within their industry and New Jersey. Hardenbergh Insurance Group serves as an inspiration within its industry, and indeed to all businesses of the great Nation of the United States of America.

THE RETIREMENT OF DR. MARVIN
KIRSH

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Marvin Kirsh, a noted cardiothoracic surgeon, who is on staff at the Ann Arbor Medical Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and to express my deep gratitude for his enormous contributions to the field of medicine.

Dr. Marvin Kirsh has been an integral part of the center staff for more than 36 years and has been the Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery since 1990. Although he has chosen to retire at the end of this month from his post, he will continue to use his extensive expertise in the educational community as a member of the University of Michigan School of Medicine teaching staff.

In his capacity as a Professor of Surgery at the University of Michigan, Dr. Marvin Kirsh

was honored by The American Heart Association and received its Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Marvin Kirsh is also an accomplished writer and has authored and co-authored more than 200 published articles on cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery and contributed to the works of nearly two dozen other authors. One of his best-known works is "Blunt Chest Trauma", published in 1997.

Because of the dedication, devotion and skill of Dr. Marvin Kirsh, the lives of hundreds of military veterans have been touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all my colleagues rise and join me in honoring Dr. Marvin Kirsh and his legacy of surgical excellence.

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN J. "HOOT"
MCINERNEY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Martin J. "Hoot" McInerney, recipient of the St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital Man of the Year Award and Distinguished Community Service Award.

Known for his kindness and infectious personality, Martin J. "Hoot" McInerney is also known throughout the metro-Detroit area as a successful car dealer and philanthropist, supporting numerous charities on a local, national and international level.

Hoot was born and raised in Detroit. He began his career in the automobile industry as a young boy working for an auto dealership, being paid fifty cents a week to keep the coal furnace stoked over cold weekends. In 1963, Chrysler offered Hoot his first dealership. Forty-one years later Hoot has become a successful businessman owning numerous car dealerships in the metro-Detroit area. The former U.S. Marine is still known to "hang out" at his Star Lincoln Mercury dealership in Southfield, Michigan.

Hoot helped to establish the St. Joseph Mercy Men of Mercy in 1974. He is also one of the founders of the J.P. McCarthy Foundation, in honor of the late and renowned radio personality who was diagnosed with and succumbed to myelodysplastic syndrome. He is also a generous donor to several Catholic churches and schools in the metro-Detroit area as well as churches and schools in Honduras, Nicaragua and the Sisters of Mary in Omaha, Nebraska.

In addition, Hoot supports Focus: HOPE, Operation Read, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Purple Rose Theater, Friends of Golf, St. John's Men's Guild, Angel's Place, the National Football Fund and Stewards of Tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, Hoot McInerney is deserving of this recognition for his humanitarian and volunteer efforts. His dedication to helping others has made a significant difference in the lives of many people.

RECOGNIZING SPENCER COPE FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Spencer Cope, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Spencer has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Spencer has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Spencer Cope for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING JENNIFER HAMMER

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jennifer Hammer of Northern Virginia, a friend and neighbor who passed away after succumbing to a three-year battle with Ovarian Cancer in November 2004.

Mrs. Hammer's courage and resilience should serve as an inspiration to us all. Despite her health, she remained an active member in her community. She volunteered at her children's schools and participated in the 350-mile AIDS bicycle ride from North Carolina to the National Mall. Mrs. Hammer worked hard to train, but was most concerned about the criteria to raise \$1,700 in order to participate. In the end, she raised over \$4,000 and finished the four-day ride with energy to spare.

On Election Day, Mrs. Hammer voted on the way to what would be her final surgery. She was so weak that the voting officials had to bring a voting machine to the car for her. She thanked them and then left for the hospital.

Mrs. Hammer touched many lives and is survived by her beloved husband Tom and children Adam and Samantha. Over Thanksgiving weekend, when many friends were out of town for the holiday, almost 600 people came to a memorial service to celebrate her life.

Mrs. Hammer showed us how to enjoy life in the good times and be positive and full of abundant grace in the worst of times. She was at peace in the end because of her faith in God and because she knew that she lived fully while on earth. Jennifer made a huge impact on many and was loved by all. Our lives were better for having known her, and we will continue to draw inspiration from her strength and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to pay tribute to the life and work Mrs. Hammer, and express my deepest condolences to all who knew and loved her.

H.R. 5107, THE JUSTICE FOR ALL
ACT

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representatives SMITH and CARTER of Texas, I would like to include the attached letter from the Texas Task Force on Indigent Defense regarding H.R. 5107, the Justice For All Act (P.L. 108-405), into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This letter responds directly to a statement found on page S11609 of the November 19, 2004 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The mission of the Texas Task Force on Indigent Defense is to promote justice and fairness to all indigent persons accused of criminal conduct, including juvenile respondents, as provided by the laws and constitutions of the United States and Texas. The Task Force was created by state law, the Fair Defense Act of 2001, and took effect on January 1, 2002. Since its implementation, the Task Force has awarded over \$30 million to 250 counties in Texas in furtherance of its mission to improve legal representation for indigent persons accused of crimes.

TEXAS TASK FORCE
ON INDIGENT DEFENSE,

Austin, Texas, December 1, 2004.

Re H.R. 5107, the "Justice For All Act"—
Congressional Record page S11613.

Hon. TOM DELAY,
U.S. House Majority Leader,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN CARTER,
Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES DELAY, SMITH, & CARTER: In response to an inquiry last week regarding the statements made by Mr. Leahy in his statement on November 19, 2004, I am offering the following for clarification of what I believe is the current state of indigent defense in Texas.

I commend the goals of this bill and the willingness of Congress to provide States much needed money in the criminal justice arena. Since the reforms to Texas indigent defense laws known as the Texas Fair Defense Act were originally enacted in 2001, the Task Force on Indigent Defense, the Texas judiciary, and local government have worked diligently to meet and exceed the mandates of this reform. This reform was hailed by Robert Spangenberg, a leading national expert on indigent defense as, "the most significant piece of indigent defense legislation passed by any state in the last twenty years."

Nevertheless, the key to meaningful reform lies in implementation. In that regard, Mr. Bill Beardall, Director of the Equal Justice Center, and leading advocate of indigent reform in Texas recently said that, "[S]ignificant indigent defense improvements were implemented both at the state level and in most of Texas's 254 counties in response to the new law."

Worth noting is that Mr. Spangenberg served as the primary author of the Fair Defense Report, which influenced the passage of the Fair Defense Act. In response to the progress made by Texas, he states: "In three short years, the Task Force has used the limited funding provided to mandate that each county has an indigent defense plan on file. Moreover, these plans are posted electronically and viewable by anyone. This in